

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1096

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Cynthia Finch, 2022 recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Cynthia Finch of Knox County, who was recently named a 2022 recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy was created to honor those who steadfastly work to improve the lives of seniors in the Knoxville community, as the award's namesake did throughout his career; recipients are professionals and community members who have been nominated in recognition of their tireless efforts on behalf of seniors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Newport, Cynthia Finch graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's degree in social work administration and planning; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Finch, a licensed master of social work and a certified case manager, has worked in healthcare as a manager, owner, and clinician throughout her thirty-year career; most of her work has been spent in home health and hospice care; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Cynthia Finch launched New Direction HealthCare Solutions, a nonprofit organization that focuses on innovative approaches to dealing with healthcare disparities for people of color and provides consulting work for new start-up businesses and operation management; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, Ms. Finch has worked tirelessly to get the community tested and hosted numerous vaccine clinics; in 2022, her work has been instrumental in getting more than 80,000 people tested, vaccinated, and educated; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Finch, who volunteered to receive the Covid-19 vaccine during the initial trial phase, initiated weekly meetings with faith leaders across the state to help them make informed decisions about keeping their congregations safe during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Finch is a member of the Greater Warner Tabernacle AME Zion Church in Knoxville, where she serves on the Stewards and Trustees Board and is president of the Missionary Society; she was appointed by the AME Bishop to serve as the Knoxville District's Health and HIV/AIDS Coordinator and Voter's Registration Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Finch serves as the president of the Psi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and served as the South Eastern Regional Director from 2002 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Finch has donated her time as a member of the boards of directors of the East Knoxville Free Medical Clinic, the Knoxville Branch of the NAACP, Building Bridges Readmission Coalition, Tennessee Society of Healthcare Social Workers, Knoxville Case Management Society, and Tennessee Association of Home Care; and

WHEREAS, throughout her admirable career, Ms. Finch has received the 2021 Martin Luther King Commission Service Award and the 2021 Chi Eta Phi Community Service Award; she has been named a National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women's Shining Star and a *Knoxville News Sentinel* Health Care Hero; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia Finch has worked tirelessly to serve seniors in her community, and it is most fitting that she be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Cynthia Finch, 2022 recipient of the John J. Duncan Sr. Award for Senior Advocacy, extending our best wishes for her continued success as she compassionately and devotedly endeavors to serve others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.